

## Legislative Bulletin.....June 18, 2007

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### **Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** Several

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$118.5 million in FY 2008 and \$603.5 million over a five year period

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 7

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

### **H.Res. 154 — Recognizing Stax Records for enriching the Nation's Cultural life with “50 years of soul” (*Cohen, D-TN*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 154 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 154 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “recognizes the 50th anniversary of the founding of Stax Records;
- “recognizes the important role played by Stax Records in launching the careers of many legendary soul music artists; and
- “recognizes the continuing contributions and influence of soul music to America's cultural life.”

The resolution lists the following findings

- “Stax Records of Memphis, Tennessee, is an icon of the American recording industry; Stax Records produced some of the earliest recordings by such soul music legends as Isaac Hayes, Otis Redding, the Staple Singers, Wilson Pickett, Luther Ingram, Albert King, the Bar-Kays, Booker T. and the M.G.'s, Johnnie Taylor, Rufus, and Carla Thomas, and many other artists whose work continues to exert a profound influence on popular music today;
- “Stax Records also produced important recordings by, among others, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Bill Cosby, and Richard Pryor;

- “soul music is a uniquely American art form that continues to enrich the Nation’s cultural life; and
- “in 2007, the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, Concord Music Group/Stax Records, and the Soulsville Foundation will be celebrating both American soul music and the 50th anniversary of the founding of Stax Records through their ‘50 Years of Soul’ celebration.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 154 was introduced on February 2, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

### **H.Res. 475 — Congratulating the University of Arizona Wildcats for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Softball Championship (*Grijalva, D-AZ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 475 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 475 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “congratulates the University of Arizona Wildcats on their victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association 2007 Division I Women’s College World Series Softball Championship; and
- “recognizes and commends the efforts of the University of Arizona Wildcats players, coaches, and support staff in achieving their victory.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “on June 6, 2007, the University of Arizona Wildcats defeated the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers to win the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women’s College World Series Softball Championship, their eighth such title since 1991;
- “Wildcats pitcher Taryne Mowatt set a College World Series record for most innings pitched, and was named the Most Valuable Player of the qualifying tournament;
- “Wildcats players Kristie Fox, Jenae Leles, and Caitlin Lowe were selected for the all-tournament team;

- “the Wildcats, after beginning the 2007 season with a losing record, completed the season with a 50-14-1 record; and
- “Wildcats coach Mike Candrea has taken the Wildcats to the College World Series 19 times in the last 20 years, winning eight College World Series titles.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 475 was introduced on June 11, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.Res. 406 — Celebrating the accomplishments of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, and recognizing the need to continue pursuing the goal of educational opportunities for women and girls (*Hirono, D-HI*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 406 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 406 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “the accomplishments of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, also known as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, in increasing opportunities for women and girls in all facets of education; and
- “the magnificent accomplishments of women and girls in sports.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “35 years ago, on June 23, 1972, the Education Amendments of 1972 containing title IX was signed into law by the President;
- “Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green led the successful fight in Congress to pass this legislation;
- “title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the administration of any education program receiving Federal financial assistance;
- “remarkable gains have been made to ensure equal opportunity for women and girls under the inspiration and mandate of title IX;
- “title IX serves as the nondiscrimination principle in education;

- “title IX has moved this Nation closer to the fulfillment of access and opportunities for women and girls in all aspects of life;
- “title IX has increased educational opportunities for women and girls, resulting in improved graduation rates, increased access to professional schools and nontraditional fields of study, and improved employment opportunities;
- “title IX has increased opportunities for women and girls in sports, leading to greater access to competitive sports, and building strong values such as teamwork, leadership, discipline, work ethic, self-sacrifice, pride in accomplishment, and strength of character;
- “on October 29, 2002, title IX was named the ‘Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act’ in recognition of Representative Mink’s heroic, visionary, and tireless leadership in developing and winning passage of title IX; and
- “35 years of progress under title IX is widely acknowledged, but because women continue to earn less for work than men with the same educational background; sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses; women and girls face substantial barriers in pursuing high-wage fields such as science, technology, engineering, and math; and women and girls’ sports teams do not receive an equal share of resources, including fewer recruiting and scholarship dollars at the college level; and athletic participation opportunities still lag behind those provided for men, there is still much work to be done if the promise of title IX is to be fulfilled.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 406 was introduced on June 15, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

## **H.Res. 485 — Expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffry Herbert, fondly known as “Mr. Wizard” (Ehlers, R-MI)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 485 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 485 would express that the House of Representatives,

- “expresses its appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffry Herbert;
- “recognizes the profound impact of higher educational institutions that train teachers;
- “encourages students to honor the heritage of Don Herbert by exploring our world through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields; and
- “tenders its condolences to the family of Don Herbert and thanks them for their strong familial support of him.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “many citizens of the United States remember Donald Jeffry Herbert as ‘Mr. Wizard’ and mourn his passing;
- “Don Herbert was born in Waconia, Minnesota and graduated from the La Crosse State Teacher’s College in Wisconsin in 1940 where he trained to be a science teacher;
- “Don Herbert volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps and served our country in the Atlantic theater and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters;
- “Don Herbert developed the idea for science programming culminating in ‘Watch Mr. Wizard’, a live television show produced from 1951 to 1964 and honored by a Peabody Award in 1954;
- “the National Science Foundation and the American Chemical Society lauded Don Herbert and his show for promoting interest in science and his contributions to science education and has since been recognized by numerous awards;
- “an additional educational program, ‘Mr. Wizard’s World’, inspired children from 1983 to 1990 on cable television;
- “‘Mr. Wizard’ continued to serve as an ambassador for science education by authoring multiple books and programs, and by traveling to schools and providing classroom demonstrations;
- “educational research indicates that young children make decisions about future careers at a very early age and are influenced greatly by positive contacts with science and technology;
- “a strong education in science and technology is one of the building blocks of a productive, competitive, and healthy society;
- “‘Mr. Wizard’ encouraged children to duplicate his experiments at home, driving independent inquiry into science with simple household equipment;
- “‘Mr. Wizard’s dynamic and energetic science experiments attracted unprecedented numbers of children to educational programming, even those who were disinterested or unmotivated in science;
- “Mr. Wizard Science Clubs were started across the United States and had more than 100,000 children enrolled in 5,000 clubs by the mid-1950s; and
- “Don Herbert will be remembered as a pioneer of commercial educational programming and instrumental in making science education exciting and approachable for millions of children across the United States.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 406 was introduced on June 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which took no further action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.R. 2127 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the “Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building” (*Boren, D-OK*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2127 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2127 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the “Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building.”

**Additional Information:** According to the State of Oklahoma’s website, Clem Rogers McSpadden was an Oklahoma politician who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1972 to 1975. Born in Bushyhead, Oklahoma, in 1925, McSpadden grew up on his family ranch and served in World War II from 1944 to 1966. In 1954, he was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate, where he served for over twenty years, and eventually become President Pro Tempore. McSpadden was elected to serve in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress in 1972. After his first term, McSpadden left office to run for the Democratic nomination for governor of Oklahoma, which he lost to David L. Boren. Now retired from public service, McSpadden resides in Chelsea, Oklahoma.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2127 was introduced on May 3, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 2127 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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**S. 1352 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the “Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building” (*Durbin, D-IL*)**

**Order of Business:** S.1352 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** S. 1352 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the “Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building.”

**Additional Information:** Dr. Francis Townsend, born in 1867, was a physician who introduced an old-age pensions scheme, known as the Townsend Plan, during the Great Depression. Townsend’s plan, which called for a monthly payment of \$200 to every American over the age 65, so long as they did not work, became widely popular in the 1930s and may have lead to eventually creation of Social Security. Townsend planned to fund the plan by imposing a national sales tax of two percent.

Although the plan was economically dubious, its popularity made the idea of increased social welfare politically significant. According to the Social Security Administration, “Despite it dubious chances of success, the Townsend Plan was without question the single most-popular scheme for old-age pensions in America during the 1930s. Literally millions of senior citizens fervently believed the Townsend Plan was their economic salvation. There is even some evidence that President Roosevelt introduced his Social Security proposals when he did in order to stave off pressure from the Townsend Plan and related alternative pension schemes.”

**Committee Action:** S. 1352 was introduced on May 10, 2007, and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it by unanimous consent on May 23, 2007. The bill was received in the House on May 24, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which held a mark up and reported the bill by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of S. 1352 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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**H.Con.Res. 155 — Recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future (*Davis, D-IL*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 155 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 155 would express the sense of the House of Representatives that:

- “Congress recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;
- “Congress supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation;
- “the President is urged to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and
- “it is the sense of Congress that:
  - “history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future; and
  - “the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

- “on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;
- “African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as Juneteenth Independence Day, as the anniversary of their emancipation;
- “African Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;
- “for more than 135 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;
- “although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and
- “the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 155 was introduced on May 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by unanimous consent on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

## **H.Con.Res. 148 — Recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month (*Lee, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 148 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 148 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of Caribbean-American Heritage Month;
- “encourages the people of the United States to observe Caribbean-American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities; and
- “affirms that:
  - “the contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States; and

- “the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “people of Caribbean heritage are found in every State of the Union;
- “emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia;
- “during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States;
- “since 1820, millions of people have emigrated from the Caribbean region to the United States;
- “much like the United States, the countries of the Caribbean faced obstacles of slavery and colonialism and struggled for independence;
- “also like the United States, the people of the Caribbean region have diverse racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds;
- “the independence movements in many countries in the Caribbean region during the 1960s and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States;
- “Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean;
- “the countries of the Caribbean are important economic partners of the United States;
- “the countries of the Caribbean represent the United States third border;
- “the people of the Caribbean region share the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States for peace and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere and the rest of the world;
- “in June 2006, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation declaring June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month after the passage of H.Con.Res 71 in the 109th Congress by both the Senate and the House of Representatives; and
- “June is an appropriate month to establish a Caribbean-American Heritage Month.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 148 was introduced on May 14, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by unanimous consent on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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**H.R. 2563 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Major Scott Nisely Post Office” (Latham, R-IA)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2563 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2563 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Major Scott Nisely Post Office.”

**Additional Information:** According to the Iowa Times-Republican, Scott E. Nisely was born on July 5, 1958, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. In 1976 he graduated from high school in Syracuse, Nebraska, and went on to attend Doane College. While in college, Nisely joined the United States Marines Reserves, where he served as a specialist. After seeing action in Operation Desert Storm, Nisely moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he worked for the United States Postal Service. In 2005, he re-enlisted in the armed forces, this time with the Army National Guard, and was deployed to Iraq in 2006. On October 6, 2006, while conducting security operations in Al Asad, Iraq, Nisely was killed when his vehicle received small arms fire. Nisely is survived by his wife and two children.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2563 was introduced on June 5, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 2563 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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**H.Res. 257— Supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (Platts, R-PA)**

**Order of Business:** H. Res. 257 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H. Res. 257 would express that the House of Representatives, “supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- over 37,170 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States;
- “pancreatic cancer is the fourth most common cause of cancer death in the United States;
- “75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis, and only 5 percent survive more than 5 years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;
- “there has been no significant improvement in survival rates in the last 25 years, and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages;
- “there are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer;
- “when symptoms of pancreatic cancer generally present themselves, it is too late for an optimistic prognosis, and the average survival rate of those diagnosed with metastasis disease is only 3 to 6 months;
- “the incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups; and
- “the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has requested that the Congress designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the Nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 257 was introduced on March 20, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which marked-up the bill and reported it by unanimous consent on June 12, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Andy Koenig; [andy.koenig@mail.house.gov](mailto:andy.koenig@mail.house.gov); 202-226-9717.

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**H.R. 885 — International Nuclear Fuel for Peace and Nonproliferation  
Act of 2007 (*Lantos, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 885 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 885 would authorize the President to make a voluntary donation of up to \$50 million, to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the purpose of establishing a nuclear fuel bank to provide low-level enriched uranium for countries that have their fuel supply disrupted.

The president may only make such a donation if he first certifies to Congress that:

- The IAEA has received international pledges of at least \$100 million for the fuel bank;
- The fuel bank is established in a non-nuclear weapon state that is IAEA compliant; and
- The fuel bank will only provide fuel to IAEA compliant nations does not operate uranium enrichment or spent-fuel reprocessing facilities of any scale.

The bill would also require that the president to submit to the committees, within 180 days of enactment, a report on U.S. activities to support an international fuel bank, and on the feasibility of establishing the bank within the United States.

The bill expresses the sense of the House that:

- “the ‘Concept for a Multilateral Mechanism for Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel’, proposed by the United States, France, the Russian Federation, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands on May 31, 2006, is welcomed and should be expanded upon at the earliest possible opportunity;
- “the proposal by the Government of the Russian Federation to bring one of its uranium enrichment facilities under international management and oversight is also a welcome development and should be encouraged by the United States;
- “the offer by the Nuclear Threat Institute (NTI) of \$50,000,000 in funds to support the creation of an international nuclear fuel bank by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is also welcomed, and the United States and other member states of the IAEA should pledge collectively at least an additional \$100,000,000 in matching funds to fulfill the NTI proposal; and
- “the governments, organizations, and experts currently engaged in developing the initiatives described in paragraphs (1) through (3) and other initiatives should also identify additional incentives to be included in an international regime for the assured supply of nuclear fuel for peaceful means, including participation in non-weapons-relevant technology development, fuel financing, and other financial incentives to further persuade countries that participation in such a multilateral arrangement far outweighs the temptation and expense of developing national uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing facilities.”

**Additional Information:** According to the findings listed in the bill, demand for enriched uranium for energy purposes has been used by some nations an argument to defend potentially harmful enrichment facilities. For instance, “Iran has used the specter

of a potentially unreliable international supply of nuclear reactor fuel as a pretext for developing its own uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing capability, which would enable Iran to also produce weapons-grade uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons.” Therefore, “the creation of a multi-tiered system to assure the supply of nuclear reactor fuel, under appropriate safeguards and conditions, could reassure countries that are dependent upon or will construct nuclear power reactors that they will have an assured supply of nuclear fuel, so long as such countries forgo national uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing facilities and are committed to the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 885 was introduced on February 7, 2007, and referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which held a mark up and introduced the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 885 would authorize \$45 million in FY 2008 and \$50 million over the FY 08 – FY 09 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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**H.Con.Res. 21 — Calling on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the United Nations Charter because of his calls for the destruction of the State of Israel (*Rothman, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 21 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 21 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns, in the strongest terms, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s offensive remarks, contemptible statements, and reprehensible policies aimed at the destruction of the State of Israel;
- “calls on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention

and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and Article 2, Section 4, of the United Nations Charter;

- “further calls on the United Nations Security Council and all Member States of the United Nations to consider measures to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, which would be both a dangerous violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and a potential means to the end of carrying out President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threats against Israel; and
- “reaffirms the unwavering strategic partnership between the United States and Israel and reasserts the steadfast commitment of the United States to defend the right of Israel to exist as a free and democratic state.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (commonly referred to as the ‘Genocide Convention’) defines genocide as, among other things, the act of killing members of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the targeted group, and it also prohibits conspiracy to commit genocide, as well as ‘direct and public incitement to commit genocide’;
- “Article 4 of the Genocide Convention provides that individuals committing any of the listed genocidal crimes shall be punished ‘whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals’;
- “133 Member States of the United Nations have ratified the Genocide Convention and thereby pledged to prosecute those individuals who violate its criteria for incitement to commit genocide, as well as those individuals who commit genocide directly;
- “Article 2, Section 4, of the United Nations Charter, to which Iran has agreed as a Member State of the United Nations, requires all Member States of the United Nations to ‘refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state’;
- “on October 27, 2005, at the World Without Zionism Conference in Tehran, Iran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for Israel to be ‘wiped off the map’, described Israel as ‘a disgraceful blot [on] the face of the Islamic world’, and declared that ‘[a]nybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury’;
- “on December 12, 2006, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addressed a conference in Tehran questioning the history of the Holocaust and said that Israel would ‘soon be wiped out’;
- “on December 14, 2001, the President of Iran’s Expediency Council, Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, threatened Israel with nuclear attack, saying, ‘[i]f one day, the Islamic world is also equipped with weapons like those that Israel possesses now, then the imperialists’ strategy will reach a standstill because the use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything [in Israel], while it will merely harm the Islamic world’;
- “Iran has aggressively pursued a clandestine effort to arm itself with nuclear weapons; and

- “the longstanding policy of the Iranian regime is aimed at destroying the democratic State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East and the most important strategic ally of the United States, which is confirmed by statements such as those made by Iranian President Ahmadinejad and Council President Rafsanjani, demonstrating the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 21 was introduced on January 1, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it by unanimous consent on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H.Con.Res. 80 — Calling on the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda by engaging in good-faith negotiations, and urging immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community**  
*(Johnson, D-NJ)*

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 80 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 80 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “disapproves of the LRA leadership’s inconsistent commitment to resolving the conflict in Uganda peacefully;
- “urges the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda to return to negotiations in order to extend and expand upon the existing ceasefire and to recommit to pursuing a political solution to this conflict;
- “entreats all parties in the region to immediately cease human rights violations and address, within the context of a broader national reconciliation process in Uganda, issues of accountability and impunity for those crimes against humanity already committed;
- “presses leaders on both sides of the conflict in Uganda to renounce any intentions and halt any preparations to resume violence and to ensure that this message is clearly conveyed to armed elements under their control; and
- “calls on the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other similar governmental agencies

and nongovernmental organizations within the international community to continue and augment efforts to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda and to support a peaceful resolution to this crisis by publicly and forcefully reiterating the preceding demands.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “for nearly two decades, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) that has resulted in up to 200,000 deaths from violence and disease and the displacement of more than 1,600,000 civilians from eastern and northern Uganda.
- “former United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland has called the crisis in northern Uganda ‘the biggest forgotten, neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today’;
- “Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, and several of his associates have been indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and the forced recruitment of an estimated 66,000 children;
- “the LRA is a severe and repeat violator of human rights and has continued to attack civilians and humanitarian aid workers despite a succession of ceasefire agreements;
- “the Secretary of State has labeled the LRA ‘vicious and cult-like’ and designates it as a terrorist organization;
- “the 2005 Department of State report on the human rights record of the Government of Uganda found that ‘security forces committed unlawful killings... and were responsible for deaths as a result of torture’ along with other ‘serious problems,’ including repression of political opposition, official impunity, and violence against women and children;
- “in the 2004 Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act (Public Law 108-283; 118 Stat. 912), Congress declared its support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda and called for the United States and the international community to assist in rehabilitation, reconstruction, and demobilization efforts;
- “the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, which was mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan and signed by representatives of the Government of Uganda and the LRA on August 20, 2006, and extended on November 1, 2006, requires both parties to cease all hostile military and media offensives and asks the Sudan People's Liberation Army to facilitate the safe assembly of LRA fighters in designated areas for the duration of the peace talks;
- “a return to civil war would yield disastrous results for the people of northern Uganda and for regional stability, while peace in Uganda will bolster the fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and de-escalate tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- “continuing violence and instability obstruct the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of northern Uganda and impede national and regional

trade, development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism initiatives; and

- “the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 366, 109th Congress, agreed to February 6, 2006, and Senate Resolution 573, 109th Congress, agreed to September 19, 2006, calling on Uganda, Sudan, the United States, and the international community to bring justice and provide humanitarian assistance to northern Uganda and to support the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace, while the House of Representatives has not yet considered comparable legislation.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 80 was introduced on March 5, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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### **H.Con.Res. 151 — Noting the disturbing pattern of killings of dozens of independent journalists in Russia over the last decade, and calling on Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders (Smith, R-NJ)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 151 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 151 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “recalls the essential role that transparency and the free flow of information play in creating and preserving democratic institutions and civil society in any country;
- “recognizes the vital contribution made by independent journalists in Russia in bringing transparency and a free flow of information to readers after decades of Communist censorship and repression;
- “notes the disturbing trend of murders of independent journalists in Russia over the last decade;
- “encourages the President of the United States to formally offer Russian President Vladimir Putin and other officials of the Russian Government United States Government law enforcement investigative assistance to help identify and bring to justice those responsible for the many unsolved murders of journalists in Russia during the past decade; and

- “urges President Putin to seek out competent, outside law enforcement assistance in the investigation of the unsolved murders of numerous independent journalists in Russia.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Paul Klebnikov, the editor of the Russian version of Forbes Magazine who was investigating suspect business dealings and corruption cases in Russia, was shot to death in Moscow on July 9, 2004;
- “Mr. Klebnikov’s murder remains unsolved;
- “Anna Politkovskaya, an acclaimed Russian journalist and human rights activist who wrote numerous articles critical of Russia’s prosecution of the war in Chechnya, of human rights abuses by the Russian Government, and of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was shot to death in Moscow on October 7, 2006;
- “Ms. Politkovskaya’s murder remains unsolved;
- “Ivan Safronov, a military affairs reporter for the Russian newspaper ‘Kommersant’ who wrote articles criticizing the failure of Russian military programs and who was planning to report on potential Russian arms sales to Middle Eastern countries, including to state sponsors of terrorism Iran and Syria, died in mysterious circumstances, falling five stories from a window in the stairwell of his apartment building in Moscow on March 2, 2007;
- “Russian prosecutors subsequently suggested that Mr. Safronov may have committed suicide, although he left no suicide note and had just bought fresh fruit prior to his death;
- the cause of Mr. Safronov’s death remains undetermined;
- “according to the International News Safety Institute, close to 90 reporters were murdered in Russia between January 1996 and the present and a great many of those murders remain unsolved;
- “according to the International News Safety Institute, over the period of the last ten years Russia holds the second position in the world in the number of journalists killed;
- “a number of those reporters who were murdered had reported on alleged corruption, malfeasance, and other controversies at the federal, provincial, and local levels of Government in Russia;
- “a number of those murdered had reported on alleged human rights abuses by the Russian Government;
- “a number of those murdered had reported on the Russian Government’s conduct of the war in Chechnya, which has involved numerous allegations of gross human rights violations and corruption; and
- “according to the President of the International News Safety Institute, ‘murder has become the easiest, cheapest and most effective way of silencing troublesome reporting, and the more the killers get away with it the more the spiral of death is forced upwards’.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 151 was introduced on May 22, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H. Res. 137 — Honoring the life and six decades of public service of Jacob Birnbaum and especially his commitment freeing Soviet Jews from religious, cultural, and communal extinction (*Nadler, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 137 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 137 would express that the House of Representatives, “honors the life and six decades of public service of Jacob Birnbaum and especially his commitment to freeing Soviet Jews from religious, cultural, and communal extinction.”

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Jacob Birnbaum was born on December 10, 1926, and December 10 is International Human Rights Day;
- “Birnbaum performed relief work with victims of Nazi and Soviet totalitarianism from 1946 through 1951, then worked with the disintegrating Jewish communities of North Africa in the mid-1950s and early 1960s;
- “in 1964, Birnbaum moved to New York and founded the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) on April 27 of that year;
- “four days later Birnbaum organized approximately 1,000 students who marched for four hours in front of the Mission to the United Nations of the Soviet Union on May 1, 1964, to begin the direct action public struggle for Soviet Jewry;
- “the SSSJ utilized nonviolent methods, including marches, rallies, publication of extensive educational materials, and meetings with government officials, to organize and activate students to take direct action in the cause of freeing Soviet Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain, utilizing the slogan ‘Let My People Go’;
- “on April 4, 1965, Birnbaum organized the Jericho March, in which students encircled the Soviet Mission and sounded shofars from all around the building and proceeded to rally at the United Nations;
- “on April 12, 1965, petitions were presented at the United Nations’ Isaiah Wall; Birnbaum organized a Jericho Ride to Washington, DC, on May 20, 1965, where he and the first SSSJ chairman Rabbi Shlomo Riskin met with senior Soviet diplomat Anatoly Myshkov, and thereafter the students circled the Embassy of the Soviet Union to the sound of shofars, then moved on to the Department of State

for a vigorous discussion, and finally arrived in Lafayette Park in front of the White House for a rally addressed by Members of Congress and the reading of an Appeal to Conscience;

- “Birnbaum and his student steering committee organized approximately thirty events in SSSJ's first two years to awaken the Jewish community in New York and beyond to the plight of Soviet Jews;
- “Birnbaum conducted a number of campaigns with Presidents and Congress for the protection of Soviet Jewish underground self-education groups and organized a delegation of the Synagogue Council of America to meet with the Deputy Secretary of State in 1985;
- “Birnbaum received the Prophet in Our Time Award in 1974 on the tenth anniversary of the SSSJ;
- “Birnbaum received the Yeshiva University Community Service Award in 1988 and the Freedom Award in 2004 from the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center;
- “Birnbaum was honored in 2004 by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on the 40th anniversary of the initiation of the Soviet Jewry movement;
- “during the 1990s Birnbaum was engaged in a number of interventions in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, especially Uzbekistan; and
- “Birnbaum continues to assist institutions for the Jewish education of former Soviet Jews as part of his ‘Let My People Know’ campaign.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 137 was introduced on May 22, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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**H. Res. 233 — Recognizing over 200 years of sovereignty of the  
Principality of Liechtenstein, and expressing support for efforts by the  
United States continue to strengthen its relationship with that country  
(Stearns, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.Con.Res. 233 is scheduled to be considered on Monday, June 18, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 233 would express that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes over 200 years of sovereignty of the Principality of Liechtenstein; and
- “expresses its support for efforts by the United States to continue to strengthen its relationship with that country.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including:

- “Liechtenstein is nestled between Switzerland and Austria in the Upper Rhine valley of the European Alps, and is one of only two landlocked countries in the world surrounded by other landlocked countries;
- “Liechtenstein has approximately 35,000 inhabitants, primarily Roman Catholics of German ethnicity;
- “the modern country of Liechtenstein once formed part of the ancient Roman province of Rhaetia;
- “in 1806, Napoleon dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, and Liechtenstein became a sovereign country for the first time;
- “after World War II, Liechtenstein's advantageously low corporate tax rates drew many companies to the country;
- “Liechtenstein is a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis, headed by its ruling Prince, called ‘Fürst’;
- “the parliament of Liechtenstein, the ‘Landtag’, consists of 25 representatives, elected for four year terms by proportional representation in two multi-seat constituencies, ten representing the lowland area and 15 representing the highland area;
- “Liechtenstein maintains a strong system of checks and balances between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government;
- “since 1999, the United States has been the most important export market for members of the Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry, totaling \$561 million;
- “since the signing of a customs treaty in 1923, Liechtenstein and Switzerland have represented one mutual economic area;
- “Liechtenstein has been a member of the European Economic Area since May 1995 and is working to harmonize its economic policies more closely with the European Union
- “Liechtenstein abolished its military in 1868 and has exercised neutrality in its foreign affairs; and
- “Liechtenstein is an active member in international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Trade Organization, the International Court of Justice, and the United Nations.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 233 was introduced on March 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked-up the bill and reported it by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?** No.

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## **H.R. 2359 — SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007 (*Sestak, D-PA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2359 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2359 would direct the Small Business Association (SBA) to create a series of **new grants** for the SBA's Office of Small Business Development Center (SBDC) with the purpose of fostering entrepreneurial development.

The SBA would be authorized to provide SBDCs with grants of up to \$500,000 to assist manufacturing training programs to become accredited. Grants up to \$350,000 would be made available to help business owners to identify transition plans and business opportunities. The same amount would be granted to small or medium sized business to evaluate energy efficiency and identify "green" building opportunities. Grants of over \$200,000 would be made available to business to research insurance costs. The bill would also make grants of up to \$300,000 available to provide financial education. Finally, the bill would authorize grants over \$50,000 to rotate personnel into disaster areas to provide on the ground business assistance.

H.R. 2359 prohibits the Small Business Administration (SBA) from distributing funds to a new SBDC if the center is located in a state that is already served by one SBDC, unless neither center has applied to serve the entire state.

**Additional Information:** According to the SBA, "the Office of Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) provides management assistance to current and prospective small business owners. SBDCs offer one-stop assistance to individuals and small businesses by providing a wide variety of information and guidance in central and easily accessible branch locations. The program is a cooperative effort of the private sector, the educational community and federal, state and local governments and is an integral component of Entrepreneurial Development's network of training and counseling services."

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that H.R. 2359 creates a new federal grant program.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2359 was introduced on May 17, 2007, and referred to House Committee on Small Business, which held a mark up and introduced the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** H.R. 2359 would authorize \$101 million in FY 2008 and \$524 million over a five year period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, H.R. 2359 would create a new federal grant program.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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## **H.R. 2366 — SBA Veterans’ Programs Act of 2007 (Buchanan, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2366 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2366 would direct the Small Business Association (SBA) to create a series of **new grants** for the SBA’s Office of Small Business Development Center (SBDC) veteran’s services. The bill would award grants of \$75,000 to \$250,000 for SBDC to expand veterans’ outreach and face-to-face counseling to help veterans “to overcome the impediments to entrepreneurship faced by veterans and members of the Armed Forces.” The bill would also authorize the creation of four new SBDC service centers by 2009.

**Committee Action:** H.R.2366 was introduced on May 17, 2007, and referred to House Committee on Small Business, which held a mark up and introduced the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 2366 would authorize \$10 million in FY 2008 and \$58 million over five years.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, H.R. 2366 would create a new federal grant program.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports

contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

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**H.R. 2284 — To amend the Small Business Act to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians (Udall, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2284 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2284 would authorize \$7 million annually for the Small Business Association (SBA) to **create new programs** run by the SBA’s Office of Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assist Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The bill would award grants for the SBDC to assist native groups with outreach and entrepreneurial skills and provide capital for start-up and expansion activities.

The bill lists the following findings:

- “The rate for American Indians and Alaskan Natives living below 50 percent the poverty level is 11.2 percent, nearly double the rate of the general population.
- “The unemployment rate for American Indians and Alaskan Natives 16 years and over is 13.6 percent, nearly double the rate of the general population.
- “Indian tribe members and Alaska Natives own more than 201,000 businesses and generate more than \$26,000,000,000 in revenues. The construction industry accounted for 16 percent of these businesses and 22.5 percent of their total receipts. The next largest was the service industry (13.2 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively). The third largest was the health care and social assistance industry (12.1 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively).
- “The Small Business Development Center program is cost effective. Clients receiving long-term counseling under the program in 2005 generated additional tax revenues of \$248,000,000, nearly 2.8 times the cost of the program to the Federal Government.
- “Using the existing infrastructure of the Small Business Development Center program, small businesses owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians receiving services under the program will have a higher survival rate than the average small business not receiving such services.
- “Business counseling and technical assistance is critical on Indian lands where similar services are scarce and expensive.
- “Increased assistance through counseling under the Small Business Development Center program has been shown to reduce the default rate associated with lending programs of the Small Business Administration.”

The bill defines “Native Hawaiians” as:

- “a citizen of the United States; and
- “a descendant of the aboriginal people, who prior to 1778, occupied and exercised sovereignty in the area that now constitutes the State of Hawaii.”

**Possible Conservative Concerns:** Some conservatives may be concerned that Native Hawaiians are a racial group, not a tribe, and dispensing benefits to them would likely be subject to strict scrutiny in federal courts. Providing additional financial assistance to this group is not only duplicative of numerous current federal education programs, but is also likely unconstitutional.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2284 was introduced on May 10, 2007, and referred to House Committee on Small Business, which held a mark up and introduced the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 2284 would authorize \$7 million in FY 2008 and \$21 million over five years.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes, H.R. 2284 would create a new federal grant program.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

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## **H.R. 2397 — SBA Women’s Business Programs Act of 2007 (Fallin, R-FL)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 2397 is scheduled for consideration on Monday, June 18, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2397 would authorize the SBA Administrator to establish a new method of distributing funds for National Women’s Business Council (WBC) grant programs that provide financial, management, and marketing assistance for women. The bill would create three tiers of funding for WBC centers. The top tier would be for five year programs and would be allocated 40 percent of available funds. Second and third tier programs would each be allocated 20 percent of funds for three year programs.

Second tier projects would receive funding to support projects where first tier programs are being completed, while third programs would support projects where second tier projects are being completed. Third tier funded programs would be subject to performance benchmarks. Grants under H.R. 2397 would range from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The bill would also require the (WBC) to conduct a year-long study on the problems facing women entrepreneurs.

**Additional Information:** According to the SBA, “the WBC program, established by Congress in 1988, is administered by the SBA’s Office of Women’s Business Ownership and promotes the growth of women-owned businesses through business training and technical assistance, and provides access to credit and capital, federal contracts, and international trade opportunities. WBCs are community-based and they are in nearly every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa, serving a wide variety of economic environments including urban, suburban and rural. Each WBC tailors its services to meet the needs of the local area, and works to provide women business owners with long-term training, counseling and mentoring, as well as access to all of the SBA’s programs and services.”

According to the sponsor’s office, H.R. 2397 is meant to ensure that WBC funds are properly spent by reorganizing the method by which grants are distributed and imposing performance benchmarks on third tier programs.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2397 was introduced on May 10, 2007, and referred to House Committee on Small Business, which held a mark up and introduced the bill, as amended, by voice vote on May 23, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, H.R. 2397 would authorize less than \$500,000 per year.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available. However, House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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